T/S Survivors

Classic Computer Column
by Richard Matejovic

Welcome to the first of what I hope to be many columns on the "Timex/Sinclair" line of computers. I felt that "T/S SURVIVORS" would be a fitting name for the column because, if nothing else, anybody using a "T/S"machine is definitely a "SURVIVOR".I do have one general comment I would like to get off of my chest before we get started this month. This pertains to everyone who is reading Vulcan's Computer Monthly. If you enjoy this magazine and the articles it brings to you each month, please subscribe to it. Also let the editor know, so he will be aware that there is continued interest in the articles and will not discontinue them.That is one of the reasons why "Classic Computers" was dropped by another magazine which I will not mention. We have a tendency to take things for granted and not taking the time to respond to an article is one of them.The preceding comments were those of the author and not nessecarily those of this magazine, its publisher(s), editor(s) or advertisers. Well now that I have said my piece, I can get down off my soapbox and on with the reason you are reading this column ,"Timex/Sinclair" STUFF! AND NOW ON WITH THE SHOW!!!!!!! This month I would like to lay the ground work and give everyone an idea of what I plan to do in the coming months. To start off, let me tell you about my system. I really like talking about it. (That might be considered bragging, but I am not conceited enough to say that myself.) OK, my system is a T/S 1000 equipped with: (are you ready for this list?) 1: Byte-Back 64k memory 2: Aerco disk drive controler w/2 drives 3: full size keyboard 4: MemoTech Centronics printer interface 5: Tandy DMP 132 printer 6: Hunter 8K nonvolatile ram board 7: CAI Stringy Floppy 8: CAI RS232 w/ASCII Communications Chip 9: Hayes 300 baud SmartModem 10: MemoTech High Rez Graphics module 11: Zenith Data Systems monitor. I have other add-ons, but they are not hooked up to the system at this time. I also have about 125 original program tapes and lots of old T/S magazines. This collection has taken four long years to acquire.Well, enough of that. Let's get down to business. In the coming months I have a few things planned. For those of you who saw my article on reading a MS-DOS text disk, I think I may have the bugs worked out so that it doesnot crash when you run across anything other than text files. I will tryto report the changes in the next issue.I am also planning on writing a program to make it possible to transfer files from the T/S to another system and then get it back in a usable format. I have already been somewhat successful in that I have been able t o send the files to another computer. The problem lies in the fact that theCAI Communication Chip does not have a file receive capability. So it looks like I will have to write a routine to do it for me. You can bet I will tell you how I did it. If there is anything you would like to see in this column (as far as projects, etc...), let me or the magazine know. We'll see what we can do. I will also answer any questions I can.This column is not going to be a basic tutorial or anything like that. I am just providing a current forum for us "Timex'ers." So if you are a member of a "T/S" users group, please drop me or the magazine a line. Let us know about you so we can put you in print. That way, other people in your area can get in touch with you.I have noticed that there are many "Second Generation" users out there who have bought or were given T/S machines that other people had given upon (how does that grab you people out there who bought your machines new?).The Second Generation user is one who has no idea there are still people who use the good-old TIMEX.To obtain information on the T/S, go to your local public library. You might be surprised at how much info you find. Some libraries still have old issues of SYNC and SYNTAX. You might start going to yard sales and flea markets to find equipment for the T/S.You could also try some of the old User Group members, if you can find an address or phone on them. Here are a few groups that I know are still around. SLIX (SincLink) c/o Bill Miller 6675 Clifford Drive Cupertino, CA 95014-4530 USA. (phone)(408)253-3175. CATS Newsletter P.O. Box 467 Fairfax Station, VA 22039. TSUG of Las Vegas Newsletter c/o Steve Sawchuck 2345 Moorpark Way, Henderson, NV 89015 .ATSU c/o Richard Matejovic 113 W.N. Broadway Columbus, Ohio 43214. If you are a member of a user group let me know so we can get you listed.Well, I guess that will do it for this month. Remember what I said at the start. We, as a group, do not want another magazine to "GIVE UP" on our machines. ■